

October 31, 2005

Dear Medicaid Recipient:

Your prescription drugs are currently paid by the Medicaid program. Due to a change in Federal law, Medicaid can **no longer** pay for your prescription drugs starting January 1, 2006. Instead, MEDICARE will provide your prescription drug coverage through a MEDICARE Prescription Drug Plan (commonly referred to as a PDP).

Do you need to do anything?

- ❖ Yes. You recently received a letter from MEDICARE telling you which Prescription Drug Plan was selected for you. **Review the plan to be sure it meets your prescription needs.** If it does, there is nothing else you need to do.
- ❖ **If it does not, you may switch to a different plan that will meet your needs.** MEDICARE is working with insurance companies and other private companies to offer these plans. Plans vary by cost, drugs covered, and the pharmacies you can use. You have several plans to choose from in your area.

When can you switch to a different plan?

- ❖ You can switch to a different Prescription Drug Plan starting November 15, 2005. Call the company offering the plan in which you choose to enroll.
- ❖ **If you do not change the plan specified in your MEDICARE letter by December 31, 2005, MEDICARE will enroll you in that plan.**
- ❖ Check with your pharmacy before December 31, 2005 to make sure it has contracted with the plan you have selected. If not, you may wish to choose either a different pharmacy or a different plan.

Can you change plans later?

- ❖ Yes. You can change to another plan at any time once per month.

What will you pay for in your MEDICARE Prescription Drug Plan?

- ❖ MEDICARE will give you extra help with your MEDICARE Prescription Drug Plan costs. You automatically qualify for this extra help because you had Medicaid coverage this year
- ❖ Depending on the plan you choose, you will pay little or no monthly premium,
- ❖ Only \$0-\$5 co-payments. Remember, Medicaid will no longer pay for drugs--not even your co-pays.

What if you get prescription drug coverage through your employer or union?

- ❖ If you get prescription drug coverage through your past or current employer or union, you may not need to enroll in a MEDICARE Prescription Drug Plan if the coverage you have is at least as good as MEDICARE prescription drug coverage. Talk with your employer or union's benefits administrator for more information about your current prescription drug coverage. Compare it to MEDICARE prescription drug coverage and make a decision that meets your needs.

Where can you get more information on MEDICARE Prescription Drug Plans?

- ❖ For more information about MEDICARE prescription drug coverage, read the "*Medicare & You 2006* " handbook you received in the mail in October. It includes detailed information about MEDICARE Prescription Drug Plans, including which plans will be available in your area. Information is also available on the MEDICARE website at: www.medicare.gov.

What if you need help choosing a MEDICARE Prescription Drug Plan that meets your needs?

- ❖ Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048, or
- ❖ Look at www.medicare.gov on the web and get personalized information, or
- ❖ Call your State Health Insurance Counseling (SHIC), at 1-888-575-6611.

Will there be other changes in what Medicaid pays for besides drugs?

- ❖ There will be no other changes in what Medicaid pays for.

Additional tips:

- ❖ Keep your MEDICARE Part A and/or Part B card--you will still need this.
- ❖ Keep your **Medicaid card**--you will still need it.
- ❖ Keep your "*Medicare & You, 2006*" handbook--you will still need this.
- ❖ You will not be able to use your old MEDICARE Prescription Drug Discount Card after December 31, 2005.
- ❖ Your MEDICARE Prescription Drug Plan will provide you with a card to use for your drugs only.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brendan K. Joyce".

Brendan K. Joyce
Director, Pharmacy Services
North Dakota Medicaid